Electoral reforms

548. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 181 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th November, 1986 and state:

(a) whether Government have since considered the question of electoral reforms which have become long over due; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The proposals made by the Election Commission for electoral reforms are still in the various stages of consideration, having regard to their complexity and sensitivity. As already mentioned Government propose to consult political parties before taking a final decision.

Appointment of Chief Executives in Public Sector Undertakings

549. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Chief Executives in 14 Public Sector Undertakings have not been appointed for the last one to two years and if so, what are the reasons for the delay in making such appointments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cement industry

550. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the critical phase through which the cement industry in the country is passing during the last few years;

(b) if so, what is the comparative percentage of rise in the production cost and decline in the output of cement during the last three years, year-wise and what are the major constraints being faced by the industry; and

(c) what are the details of the relief if any, contemplated by Government to tide over the crisis in the cement industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Representations have been received from the Cement Manufacturers' Association about the difficulties faced by new units for some time past.

(b) According to the findings of BICP, the average cost of production of cement of 1956 cement units for the year 1982-83 and 1983-84 was Rs. 417/- and 496/- per tonne respectively. Hence, the precentage increase during 1983-84 in relation to the cost 1982-83 was 18.9. No further study on this has, however, been conducted.

As regards the output of cement, it may be mentioned that there has been no decline in the production. On the contrary, there has been substantial increase in production. The production during 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 had been 30.19 million tonnes, 33.13 million tonnes and 36.00 million tonnes (expected) respectively.

The major constraints being faced by cement industry relate to power cuts in major cement producing states particularly Karnataka, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu, inadequate availability of coal of desired quality and unduly long period taken by some of the new units in stabilising their production.

(c) Following reliefs have already been given by the Government to help the cement industry:

(i) Levy obligation of all cement units has been reduced by 10 per cent with effect from 15-12-86.

(ii) Retention price for levy cement has been increased by Rs. 24.50 per tonnes with effect from 15-12-86.

(iii) Payment of Rs. 9 -per tonne by the cement factories to the cement Regulation Account on the non-levy production of cement has been discontinued from 15-12-86.

(iv) To compensate the cement industry for higher direct cost for generation of power from the DG Sets installed after 28-2-82, appropriate relief is provided by reduction in their normal levy obligation.

Power generation in Orissa

551. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for taking up new power generation schemes in Orissa during the year 1986-87 and 1987-88;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) how many power generation projects have been sanctioned for the Eastern region during the years 1986-87 and 1987-88?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (c) During 1986-87 and 1987-88, one unit each of 80 MW of the Upper Kolab Hydroelectric Project is scheduled for commissioning in Orissa. In addition, the other major schemes in the Eastern Region scheduled for commissioning during 1986-87 and 1987-88 are as under :—

Name of the Scheme	State/ Agency	Capacity Additions
Mainthon gas turbine I & II Units	D.V.C.	60 MW
Farakka Thermal II & III Units	N.T.P.C.	420 MW

Installation of LPG bottling plants

552. SHRI K. GOPALAN:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) How many LPG bottling plants are likely to be installed in the country in the near future;

(b) the location of each plant, its capacity and area to be catered by each plant alongwith the cost;

(c) how many LPG plants are prosently functioning in the country, indicating their capacity location and the area covered by each; and

(d) how many LPG connections are likely to be given during the next three years, year-wise figures in each state?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BHAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) Details of the 42 LPG bottling plants presently in the process of being set up in the country are given in the enclosed statement I. (*See* below) Details in respect of existing plants are given in the enclosed statement II. (*See* below) Each bottling plant helps to meet the requirements of registered Consumers in the areas nearby, and, if need be, in distant markets.